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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,513	04/19/2004	Toshiyuki Takada	H0405T	1950
7590 09/12/2005 TAKEUCHI & KUBOTERA, LLP 200 DAINGERFIELD ROAD, SUITE 202 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER NGUYEN, KHIEM M	
			ART UNIT 2839	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/826,513

Applicant(s)

TAKADA, TOSHIYUKI

Examiner

Khiem Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 and 4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of species I (claims 1 and 3) in the reply filed on 6/28/05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Drawings

2. Figures 6-7 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "plurality of first contact portions arranged in a direction *perpendicular* to a plugging direction" as recited at lines 4-5 in claim 1 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended

replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, at lines 4-5, it is not clear how the "plurality of first contact portions arranged in a direction *perpendicular* to a plugging direction" (also see objections to drawings above).

Also in claim 1, at line 10, the recited phrase "outside a range" seems unclear.

The term "said guided direction" in at lines 18-19 of claim 1 lacks proper antecedent basis.

Also, the term "said direction" recited throughout claims 1 and 3 is vague and indefinite, since it is not clear which direction is specifically being referred to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims ^{and 3 are} 1, ~~rejected~~ under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Admitted Prior Art (APA).

As far as claim 1 is understood, the APA as being discussed in the background of the present application and shown in figures 6-7 of the drawings disclose an electrical connector assembly in which a first connector 50 is plugged with a second connector 70 for electrical connection, said first connector comprising: a plurality of first contact portions 53; and a pair of guide portions 58 provided at sides of said first connector, in which said first contact portions are arranged, each guide portion having a guide surface 59 extending in a plane perpendicular to the plugging direction, and said second connector comprising: a plurality of second contact portions 72 connected to said first contact portions; and a pair of guided portions 71 each having a guided surface 74 guided by said guide surface when said second connector is plugged into said first connector, wherein at least one of said guide and guided surfaces has a relief recess (read on the right hand side guided portion as shown in fig. 7) at least in a middle

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thereof in said plugging direction. Wherein at least inside surface of a top of each of said guide portions is tapered (see fig. 7).

7. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasumura et al. (5,458,497).

As far as claim 1 is understood, Yasumura et al. discloses an electrical connector assembly in which a first connector 30 is plugged with a second connector 48 for electrical connection, said first connector comprising: a plurality of first contact portions 34; and a pair of guide portions (46, 46') provided at sides of said first connector, in which said first contact portions are arranged, each guide portion having a guide surface 84 extending in a plane perpendicular to the plugging direction, and said second connector comprising: a plurality of second contact portions 50 connected to said first contact portions; and a pair of guided portions 81 each having a guided surface 49 guided by said guide surface when said second connector is plugged into said first connector, wherein at least one of said guide and guided surfaces has a relief recess 64 at least in a middle thereof in said plugging direction. Wherein at least inside surface of a top of each of said guide portions is tapered (see the disclosure and embodiments, figures 3-9).

Conclusion


8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Clark et al. (6,535,397) is further cited to show a guided electrical connector assembly.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khiem Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272-2096. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Khiem Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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